

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The Finance Committee Meeting of the City of Willmar met at 5:15 on Thursday October 10th, 2019, in Conference Room No. 1 at the City Office Building.

Present:	Audrey Nelsen	Chair
	Andrew Plowman	Member
	Rick Fagerlie	Member
	Julie Asmus	Member

Others present: Finance Director Steve Okins, City Clerk Judy Thompson, WMU General Manager John Harren, and WMU Finance Director Denise Runge.

Item No. 1 **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Item No. 2 **Public Comments**

There were no Public comments.

Item No. 3 **Recommended Action Items for the Council**

Resolution Accepting Donations – (Resolution)

In accordance with the City's donation protocol established in 2016, the third quarter 2019 activity was reviewed. Two donations were received of \$600.00 from AgCountry Farm Credit Services for the Park and Recreation Scholarship Program and \$2,000.00 from Willmar Lakes Rotary for the Park and Recreation Scholarship Program. These donations have been acknowledged by the City Administrator by expressing the community's appreciation to the donors.

It was moved to recommend by Councilmember Asmus and seconded by Councilmember Fagerlie to introduce a Resolution to accept donations received during the third quarter of 2019.

Motion Approving County Tax Forfeited Parcel Valuation – (Tabled)

Parcels No. 95-668-1700, 95-668-4900, and 95-913-1115, all of which are vacant lots, have been forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of property taxes. As such Kandiyohi County has valued these parcels at \$300, \$100, and \$200, respectively. There are no special assessments owing against said parcels.

It was the consensus of the committee to send this matter back to Public Works Director Sean Christensen, prior to authorizing the County to sell these parcels, to provide further clarification of why the City would not benefit from owning them, particularly because of their location and storm water issues.

Resolution Approving Agricultural Exemptions – (Resolution)

It is the policy of the City to temporarily exempt from assessments certain lands currently used for agricultural purposes. Annually, contact is made with the listed land owners to ascertain their desire to place the land in agricultural use for the upcoming crop year. Staff presented the proposed resolution listing the property owners who have made application for Agricultural Land Exemption for 2020 and have met the criteria contained in the City's Comprehensive Assessment Policy.

It was moved to recommend by Councilmember Fagerlie and seconded by Councilmember Plowman to introduce a resolution approving the Agricultural Land Exemption of Special Assessments.

Utility Rate Ordinance and Set Hearing November 4th – (Motion)

Proposed rate changes by the Willmar Municipal Utilities were presented and reviewed. If approved, a new rate would be added for electric vehicle charging. Further, water rates are being proposed through 2023 and there will be a newly added formula for the Electric Energy Acquisition Adjustment. The committee requested information on how these water rates compare to like communities which will be distributed with the council agenda packet. There was also discussion about the utility improvement charge instituted by the City several years ago which is used to fund a portion of the debt service payments for the City's 10-year street program bonds. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

It was moved to recommend by Councilmember Fagerlie and seconded by Councilmember Asmus a motion to introduce a Utility Rate Ordinance and set a public hearing for November 4th, 2019, regarding the proposed utility rate changes.

Item No. 4 Discussion Items for the Council

Chair Nelsen asked that any further requests, concerns, or questions for the Mayor's Proposed 2020 Budget be submitted to City Administrator Gramentz soon. The PIR Fund was briefly discussed with further consideration to take place at future meetings. The Finance Committee Meeting Calendar and future agenda items were summarized as well.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM by Chair Nelsen.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carol Cunningham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carol" being more prominent than the last name "Cunningham".

Carol Cunningham
Accounting Coordinator